

Title: SOVIET MILITARY DOCTORS IN WORLD WAR II (USSR)
(Ye. I. Smirnov)

Source: Handbook Sovetskiye Voennyye Vrachy v Otechestvennuyu
Voynu. (Soviet Military Doctors in World War II), Ye. I. Smirnov,
published by "Sovetskaya Nauka," Moscow 1946.

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CONFIDENTIAL**SOVIET MILITARY DOCTORS IN WORLD WAR II**

This handbook is a commentary on the development and role of military medicine in wars involving Russia up to and including World War II. It also depicts the therapeutic, anti-epidemic and evacuation activities of Red Army medical personnel among troops and the civilian population at various fronts during World War II. The balance of the handbook is devoted to a presentation of biographical sketches of outstanding Red Army medical officers.

During the period between July 1942 and June 1943, medical officers made up 12% of the total number of officer casualties. The heroism of medical officers is attested to by the number of decorations which were awarded to them. By March 1944, 25,000 officers of the medical corps received awards (excluding medals for the defense of cities); of this number 60 received the Order of Lenin and more than 700 the Order of the Red Star. The following twelve Medical service personnel were the recipients of the title of hero of the Soviet Union:

I. D. Ionov, Junior Lieutenant; V. A. Kolyada, Senior Lieutenant; V. I. Bykovskiy, Guards Lieutenant, Medical Corps; G. V. Grigor'yan, Guards Lieutenant, Medical Corps; T. A. Pushina, Lieutenant, Medical Corps; N. Ya. Yakupov, Senior Lieutenant, Medical Corps; Z. I. Mareseva, Technical Sergeant, Medical Corps; M. I. Pocherbachenko, First Sergeant, Medical Corps; S. A. Bogomolov, Lieutenant, Medical Corps; and A. V. Zubkov, First Sergeant, Medical Corps.

Female medical officers played a significant role in the Red Army medical corps. The percentage of female medical officers in the Red Army Medical Corps is reported to be as follows:

Among doctors of all specialties	44
" dentists	55
" pharmacists	52
" surgeon's assistants (Feldshers)	47

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Three female medical officers were recipients of the title, "Hero of the Soviet Union." Twenty-five per cent of all medical officers decorated were women.

In the beginning of World War II, three-fourths of the Red Army Medical Service personnel were young reservists who were inexperienced and unfamiliar with the principles of military medicine. To train these young reservists properly for military medical work, well-known specialists of Soviet medical sciences were drafted for service in military hospitals and field medical institutions of the Red Army. By 1946 the Red Army medical staff included: 4 academicians, 22 "honored workers of sciences," 275 professors, 558 docents, 306 doctors of medical sciences, and 1, 195 candidates of medical sciences. The late Chief Surgeon of the Red Army, Academician N. N. Burdenko, enlisted the support of all Soviet medical institutions and the most capable workers in Soviet medicine to study military surgery problems.

Outstanding Red Army Surgeons:

It is stated in this section that these officers devote much of their time to the training of surgical personnel, and that the work of some of the larger clinics and scientific institutions of the USSR, as well as the solution of actual military-field surgical problems in field medical institutions, is being performed under their direction.

N. N. Burdenko. At the time of his death, 11 November 1946, Burdenko was a General-polkovnik of the Medical Service, and the Chief Surgeon of the Red Army. In 1924, he opened the Neurosurgical Section Clinic, First Moscow Medical Institute. Burdenko, who developed the methodology for complex operations on the nervous system, is also credited with many original works in the field of neurosurgery which have been widely acclaimed in the USSR and abroad.

When the Neurosurgical Clinic, Roentgen Institute, opened in 1929, Burdenko was placed in charge, and in 1932, the Central Neurosurgical

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Institute was formed on the base of this clinic. Within a short time this institute became the center of neurosurgery. Some of its accomplishments included perfection of a method for splicing injured nerves and the restoration of ^{joint articulation} ~~limbs~~. The work of this institute has been of considerable interest to foreign scientists.

Burdanko was an active member of the Academy of Sciences USSR, president of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, honorary member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and the American Surgical Association, and permanent chairman of the All-Union Association of Surgeons USSR. He was awarded a number of prizes and awards for his achievements in the field of surgery.

Among those of Burdanko's closer association, who worked with him on the improvement of surgical aid for the wounded, are such outstanding military-field surgeons as: Academicians S. S. Girgolav, P. A. Kurpiyev, and S. S. Yudin; Professors N. I. Denaytis, N. N. Akhutin, A. A. Vishnovskiy, N. P. Yelanskiy, V. N. Shumov, V. V. Torinevskaya, D. A. Antin, V. I. Popov, and V. S. Levit.

S. S. Girgolav. General-leytenant, Medical Service, 56 years old, Deputy Chief Surgeon of the Red Army in charge of surgery on the Northern Front. He is a graduate of the Military Medical Academy, and now heads one of its surgical clinics. He is well known for his work on the morphology and biochemistry of wounds and their treatment.

During World War II, Girgolav and his students studied the processes, of frostbite, established a fourth degree in the classification of frostbite, and developed an original method for its treatment which is rapidly and widely being put into use by Soviet medicine. For this work Girgolav received the Stalin Prize. Other awards held by him include the Order of the Red Banner, Order of Labor Red Banner, and the Order of the Red Star, the medal Twenty Years in the Workers' and Peasants Red Army, and the medal, "Defense of Moscow."

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P. A. Kupriyanov. General-leytenant, Medical Service, Chief Surgeon of the N-th front, is credited with directing the successful medical-evacuation work during the siege of Leningrad. Kupriyanov held the position of Chief Surgeon of the Leningrad front in the beginning of World War II. He is a graduate of the Military Medical Academy and a regular army doctor (kadrovyy vrach). In 1939 he participated in battles with the Finns in the capacity of a surgeon of the Leningrad Military District.

He holds the degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences and the titles of "Professor" and "Honored Worker of Science." He is the author of more than 50 scientific works of a clinical, experimental, and reference character, has written many sections of text books on topographical anatomy, and surgery, and conducted much educational and training work among officer medical personnel at the front.

For outstanding leadership in surgical work he has been awarded the Order of Lenin, Order of the Red Banner, Order of the Patriotic War First Class, and the medal "Defense of Leningrad."

Many scientific conferences were held at the front, and several collected works on various problems of military-field surgery were published; in addition, he has published works on his front line experience. Academician Kupriyanov and General-major of the Medical Service S. I. Banaytis, Professor, Chief Surgeon of the Moscow Front in 1941, were the authors of one of the first textbooks on military-field surgery which was published at the beginning of World War II. This book contains the personal experiences of the authors gained during the Soviet-Finnish War, 1939-1940, and is quite popular among military doctors.

S. I. Banaytis. Professor, General-major, Medical Service, 45 years old, Chief Surgeon of the N-th Front. In 1941 he was the Chief Surgeon of the Moscow Front.

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Professor S. I. Banaytis has received two Orders of the Red Banner, an Order of the Patriotic War First Class, two Orders of the Red Star, and the medal "Defense of Moscow." He is a graduate of the Military Medical Academy and is a regular army doctor. Before the war he headed a chair of surgery presumably at the Military Medical Academy.

S. S. Yudin. Colonel, Medical Service, Active Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR and Laureate of Stalin Prize gave much attention to the implementation of methods for the treatment of hip wounds through the use of thick plaster casts (glukhaya gipsovaya povyazka) the use of sulfamide preparations, and to the reduction of the number of wartime abdominal casualties. He is the author of more than one hundred and fifty scientific works, a member of many surgical societies in the Soviet Union and abroad, and the recipient of the Order of Lenin and the Order of the Red Star.

M. N. Akhutin. General-leytenant, Medical Service, Doctor of Medical Sciences, Professor, Chief Surgeon of the N-th Front, is 46 years old. He is a graduate of the Red Army Military Medical Academy, and a regular army doctor. As a surgeon, he participated in the Civil War, in battles with the Japanese at Lake Khasan, with the Japanese-Manchurians on the Khalkin-Gol River, and also in the war with the Finns. Prior to World War II he directed a surgical clinic.

He has been awarded the Order of Lenin, Order of the Red Banner, Order of the Patriotic War First Class, and the Order of the Red Star, and holds the title "Honored Worker of Science."

Akhutin is widely recognized as one of the outstanding military-field surgeons of the Soviet Union. He used the experience gained in the above-mentioned battles to write a textbook on military-field surgery, which proved valuable in the training of Soviet personnel in the principal problems of organization of surgical aid for troops in the field.

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Ne.N. Yelanskiy. General-leytenant, Medical Service, Chief Surgeon, N-th Front, 50 years of age, directed the surgical work at the battle front in Hungary.

Yelanskiy is a graduate of the Military Medical Academy and belongs to Fedorov's school. He holds the titles of "Professor" and "Honored Worker of Science", and has been awarded the Order of Red Banner, Order of the Patriotic War First Class, and two Orders of the Red Star.

Professor Yelanskiy participated in the battles along the Khalkin-Gol River and in Finland. During the early part of World War II he wrote a brief manual on military-field surgery. The value of this book can best be explained by the fact that during the war three printings were required. Later, he rewrote this book and entitled his new work "Instructions on Military-Field Surgery." Yelanskiy was responsible for introducing the idea of performing scientific research work at the front which was devoted to the study of current military medical experience. This work was participated in not only by scientific research institutes, laboratories, special chairs and clinics, but also by numerous institutions of the field medical service.

In 1942, Yelanskiy was largely responsible for the organization of a scientific medical council under the Medical Administration of the N-th Front.

At its first session, held on 10 November 1942, the council prepared the 1943 scientific research work plan for medical research institutions of the front. Some of the more important problems of this plan included: organizational problems of medical-evacuation services for troops; prophylaxis, diagnosis, and treatment of shock; aseptics and antiseptics in field conditions; treatment of gunshot wounds and fractures; early diagnosis and treatment of anaerobic infections; skull, brain, chest, and stomach injuries, and others. Most of these problems have been worked out and results have been presented at scientific conferences of front doctors or published in the form of separate collected works ^{such} as Experience of Doctors of the N-th Front, or published

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in the journal Voenno-Sanitarnoye Delo (Military Sanitation).

V. N. Shamov; General-leytenant Medical Service, Deputy Chief Surgeon of the Red Army, 62 years of age, graduated from the Military Medical Academy in 1908. A student of the late S. P. Fedorov, Professor Shamov now heads the Surgical Clinic named Fedorov at the Military Medical Academy and is well known for his works on blood transfusion. He was one of the first to suggest and experimentally demonstrate the feasibility of using the blood of a corpse for the purpose of blood transfusion.

He has been awarded the Order of the Red Banner and the Order of Labor Red Banner, and holds the degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences and the title "Honored Worker of Science."

V. V. Gorinevskaya. Colonel, Medical ^{Service} Corps, 62 years old, is described as a strict instructor of doctors working in army and front line hospitals. She holds the degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences and the titles of "Professor" and "Honored Worker of Science."

She served as a physician in World War I, in battles against the Japanese-Manchurian invaders along the Khalkhin-Gol River and against Finns on the Karelian Peninsula. For active participation in and direction of surgical work under combat conditions, she has been awarded the Order of the Red Banner and the Order of the Red Star, as well as the medals "For Valor," and "For the Defense of Stalingrad," and "Defense of Moscow."

D. A. Entin. General-mayor, Medical ^{Service} Corps, Chief Stomatologist of the Red Army, Honored Worker of Science, author of more than 60 scientific works. Stomatologists of the Red Army working under the guidance of Entin made significant progress in the treatment of maxillofacial trauma.

Entin, who is one of the outstanding stomatologists in the USSR, has been awarded the Order of the Patriotic War Second Class, and the Order of the Red Star, as well as the medals "Defense of Leningrad" and "Twenty Years in the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army."

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V. I. Popov. General-major, Medical ^{Service} ~~Corps~~, Chief Surgeon of the N-th Front, devotes much of his time to the direction of divisional medical aid stations and field mobile surgical hospitals. Popov, a graduate of the Military Medical Academy and a regular army doctor, also holds the degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences and the title of "Professor."

In the beginning of World War II he served as an army surgeon and later became the chief surgeon of the historical Don Front. He has been awarded the Order of Lenin, the Order of Red Banner, the Order of the Patriotic War First Class, and the medals "Twenty Years in the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army" and "Defense of Stalingrad."

V. S. Levit. General-major, Medical ^{Service} ~~Corps~~, Deputy Chief Surgeon of the Red Army, 61 years of age, holds the degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences and the titles of "Professor" and "Honored Worker of Science."

Levit, who began his medical career as a village physician and eventually became a professor, is at present, director of the Clinic of Hospital Surgery, Moscow Medical Institute, chairman of the Moscow Surgical Society, and editor of the journal Khirurgiya. He has been awarded the Order of the Patriotic War Second Class and the Order of Labor Red Banner.

A. P. Frumkin. Colonel, Medical ^{Service} ~~Corps~~, specialist in the fields of urology and restorative surgery of urino-genital tracts. He is considered to be an outstanding teacher who is frequently observed by surgeons of army and front line hospitals.

Outstanding Red Army Therapists

In all wars the number of medical cases always exceeded the number of those actually wounded. The treatment of medical cases was not given sufficient attention, and therapists in the army played a subordinate, secondary role. During World War II, Red Army therapists gained the stature which is rightfully theirs, when military-field therapy became

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an independent branch of military medicine.

M. S. Vovsi. General-mayor, Medical ^{Servic} Corps, Chief Therapeutist of the Red Army, 48 years old, holds the titles of "Professor" and "Honored Worker of Science." He received his medical degree from the medical faculty of the Moscow University 25 years ago.

He served as a chief regimental physician during the Civil War, and in the next 23 years he worked in clinics on internal diseases. He worked first in the ^{First} Moscow University as an ordinator and later he worked as an assistant and private lecturer at faculty clinics. During the last 11 years he has been head of a chair at the Central Institute for the Advanced Training of Doctors, and in charge of the Therapeutics Department of the Hospital imeni Botkin.

Vovsi is the author of 40 works, including a textbook and two monographs on kidney infections and pneumonia. For rapid fulfillment of tasks of the Supreme Command he has been awarded two orders and the medal "Defense of Moscow."

Vovsi requires that all chief therapeutists of fronts and army therapeutists teach young physicians of clinical medicine the fundamentals of practical work. He sets a personal example by making frequent visits to army and field medical institutions.

V. A. Ravach-Shoherbo. Colonel, Medical ^{Servic} Corps, Chief Therapeutist of the Fourth Ukrainian Front before Stalingrad, 56 years old, the son of a physician, has been a therapeutist for 28 years.

He was a regimental physician during World War I, and in the next 20 years worked in the clinic of a medical faculty. During the past 10 years he has been a professor and director of a clinic. His scientific research, monographs, and the works of his students on tubercular and nontubercular infections of the lungs are well-known in Soviet medical circles.

In the beginning of World War II he was chief therapeutist of one of the most active fronts and moved with the advancing troops from

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Stalingrad to the Carpathians. He was frequently seen in his "Jeep" visiting field hospitals, and division and regimental medical stations. He was awarded two orders and the medal for "Defense of Stalingrad" for outstanding work in therapy.

G. A. Samarin, Lieutenant Colonel, Medical ^{Service} Corps, identified as Deputy Chief Therapist of the Red Army, the son of a worker from New Ladoga, near Leningrad, received his physicians certificate in 1923. He served as a tank unit physician in the Far East for two years, and later was transferred to the therapeutics department of a hospital. During the eight years prior to World War II he worked as a clinical assistant at the medical faculty in Leningrad.

In 1940 he was recalled to active duty as head of a division medical station; later he served as an army therapist. While in the army, Samarin organized two excellent field therapeutics hospitals, successfully directed the work of army therapists, and, in the course of a year, he completed twelve scientific works on internal medicine, many of which were original. During actual combat Samarin worked in surgical, field hospitals near the front lines, and organized medical aid for seriously wounded troops who were slated for evacuation to rear areas. For this work he was awarded an order and the medal "For the Defense of Leningrad."

P. I. Yegorov, ^{Service} General-major, Medical Corps, Doctor of Medical Sciences, Professor at the Chair of the Faculty Therapy Clinic, Military Medical Academy imeni S. M. Kirov, author of more than 30 scientific works. During the war he directed the work of therapists of the Western and subsequently of the Leningrad Front, and for one year he served as Deputy Chief Therapist of the Red Army. He has been awarded the Order of the Patriotic War First Class and the Order of the Red Star.

S. A. Pospelov. Colonel, Medical ^{Service} Corps, Chief Therapist of a front, ^{war} experienced therapist who possesses special organizational ability.

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He holds the degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences and the title "Professor", and is also the author of more than 40 scientific works. Until 1942, he headed the Institute of Malaria and ~~T~~^Tropic Diseases in Stalinbad.

Outstanding Red Army Epidemiologists

The extremely painstaking work of Soviet epidemiologists was highly praised by the Red Army Command and Soviet Government. Many epidemiologists have been awarded orders of the Soviet Union.

I. I. Yelkin. Lieutenant Colonel, Medical ~~Corps~~^{Service}, an experienced epidemiologist, was director of one of the larger microbiological institutes before joining the army on the first day of World War II. He served as chief epidemiologist of one of the most active fronts, and for his work was awarded the Order of the Patriotic War Second Class and the Order of the Red Star.

T. T. Pozvyay. Colonel, Medical ~~Corps~~^{Service}, Chief Epidemiologist of the N-th Front, identified as a senior regular army physician, was, for a long time, chief of a sanitation-epidemiological laboratory of a military district. He is the author of many works devoted to problems dealing with military epidemiology and recipient of the Order of the Red Star and the medal "Defense of Moscow."

G. A. Znamenskiy. Colonel, Medical ~~Corps~~^{Service}, Chief Epidemiologist of the N-th Front, identified as a doctor of medical sciences, and a regular army physician, was an instructor at the Kuybyshev Military-Medical Academy before the war. He is the author of scientific works on military epidemiology, and has been awarded the Order of the Patriotic War Second Class, the Order of the Red Star, and the medal, "Defense of Stalingrad."

G. Ya. ~~Sibiryayev~~^{Sibiryayev} Lt. Colonel, Medical ~~Corps~~^{Service}, Chief Epidemiologist of the N-th Front, Professor, head of the Chair of Microbiology at one of the Moscow medical institutes before World War II. He is the author of 40 scientific works and has been awarded the Order of the Patriotic

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War Second Class, the Order of the Red Star, and the medal "Defense of Stalingrad."

T. Ye. Boldyrev. General-mayor, Medical ~~Corps~~^{Service}, identified as head of the anti-epidemic administration of the Main Military Medical Administration of the Red Army, is a regular army physician. A graduate of the Military Medical Academy, he holds the degree of doctor of medical sciences and the title "Professor." He has been awarded the Order of Red Star and Red Banner, and the medal "Defense of Moscow" for his achievements in the field of military-epidemiology.

I. D. Ionin. General-mayor, Medical ~~Corps~~^{Service}, Chief Infectionist of the Red Army, was killed at the front. Prior to the war, he was the director of the Infection Clinic, Moscow Medical Institute, and held the degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences and the title "Professor." For his achievements in the field of military-epidemiology, he was awarded the Order of the Patriotic War First Class and the Order of Red Star.

V. D. Bershadskiy. General-mayor, Medical ~~Corps~~^{Service}, a regular army physician, is identified as the head of a district sanitation administration. For the successful completion of tasks in the field of military-epidemiology, he was awarded the Order of the Patriotic War Second Class, the Order of Red Banner, the Order of the Red Star, as well as the medals "Defense of Stalingrad" and "Defense of Moscow."

D. S. Skrynnikov. General-mayor, Medical ~~Corps~~^{Service}, has been in the military service since 1912, the year in which he completed the course of the medical faculty at Moscow University. He was one of the directors of the anti-epidemic service of the Leningrad Front. He has been awarded the Order of the Patriotic War First Class, two Orders of the Red Star, and the medals "Defense of Leningrad" and "Twenty-Years in the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army."

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Outstanding Organizers of Military Medicine in the Red Army

A. Ya. Barabanov. General-leytenant, Medical ^{Service} Corps, identified as Chief of the Sanitation Administration of the N-th Front, 43 years old, ~~is~~ a graduate of the Military Medical Academy of the Red Army. He began his military service as a junior regimental physician and subsequently, held the positions of senior and divisional physician, as well as head of the medical corps of one of the military districts. He also was an instructor of military medical subjects at the Military Medical Academy.

During World War II he was an army medical ^{Service} Corps officer, and later became the chief of the medical ^{Service} Corps of the Don Front. For the successful direction of the army and front medical service, Barabanov was awarded the Order of the Red Banner, two Orders of the Patriotic War First Class, and the Order of the Red Star, and the medal "Defense of Stalingrad."

N. P. Ustinov. General-leytenant, Medical ^{Service} Corps, 41 years old, identified as Chief of the Sanitation Administration of the N-th Front, completed the Military Medical Academy in 1932. He began his military service as a senior physician of a separate battalion, served with automobile and aviation units, and was an infantry division physician.

In the beginning of World War II he was a medical ^{Service} Corps officer of a military district, and eventually became the medical ^{Service} Corps officer of a field army. He was in charge of providing medical service during the siege of Stalingrad, and later directed the medical ^{Service} Corps with the offensive forces along the Southern Front, which, from 19 November 1942 to 1 March 1943, advanced 650 kilometers.

At present, Ustinov is the medical ^{Service} Corps officer of the front which was responsible for repulsing the Germans from the Ukraine. For his work he has ^{been} awarded the Order of the Red Banner, the Order of the Patriotic War First and Second Class, the Order of the Red Star, and the medals "Defense of Sevastopol" and "Defense of Stalingrad."

V. I. Kabanov. Colonel, Medical ^{Service} Corps, 34 years old, began

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his military service as a junior physician of an infantry regiment. At the start of the war, he was the head of a medico-prophylactic department of a military district medical ~~corps~~^{Service}. Shortly thereafter, he was placed on active duty with the army, and later was appointed medical service officer of one of the field armies.

He displayed unusual organizational ability in his work as an army medical corps officer, and for the successful completion of his work, he was awarded the Order of the Patriotic War Second Class and the Order of the Red Star.

V. A. Bykov. Lt. Colonel, Medical ~~Corps~~^{Service}, 33 years old, completed the Medical Institute in 1932, and joined the Red Army in 1938.

In the beginning of World War II he was a division physician and later became the chief of a clearing station. In 1943 he was appointed an army medical ~~corps~~^{Service} officer. He has been awarded the Order of the Patriotic War First Class and the Order of the Red Star.

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